

Southwest Area Interagency Engine Operator's Meeting
December 3, 2002 - Albuquerque, NM

Minutes from the second meeting:

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 am at Amerisuites in Albuquerque, NM on December 3, 2002 with chair Todd Rhines presenting an overview of the previous meeting. Todd then brought up topics for the meeting and future meetings. These topics include:

- Decisions for the charter - new vs. old
- Professional organization - Forman vs. Captain
- Setting up a Regional Engine **S**tandard **O**perating **P**rocedure
- Decide on Zone Representatives for the committee
- Training academy/program

Jerome Macdonald (Regional Office) talked a little on the former committee, which included the original charter, workshops at various locations that turned into actual training in the later years. He also commented on the current increased show of interest and participation. Jerome recommended to the committee to continue the Interagency aspect in order to be more effective. Before finishing, Jerome talked of the Fireline Leadership classes and the push in the past to have the Engine portion incorporated.

Tony Sciacca (Prescott NF) brought up similar issues from his input during the first meeting. He reemphasized position descriptions, SOP's and not to let the committee fall by the way side. We have the backing by the region and to go forth.

Willie Begay from the BIA who is part of the Southwest Area Coordinating Group and was glad to see the committee back in existence and reminds the committee to be voice in the engine world. Welcomed us to have committee members to sit in on the SWACG meetings. Suggested that only two meetings per year may not be enough to get issues addressed. Willie discussed with the committee the contract vs. agency engine and the work rest guidelines, and how this committee can look in to concerns from the agency side.

Dave Bales (Coconino NF) read off the new charter to the committee. Small changes were made in regards to vice chair moving into the chair position after two years. The members felt more agency representation may be cycled through with new chair, vice chair and secretary being voted in every two years. Set for the meetings to be in the spring and the fall. Other small changes were brought up and are in the process of being altered. The finalized version, once signed, will be linked to Southwest Area Website with the help of Jerome Macdonald. Minutes and the Regional Engine SOP will also be posted at this site.

Mike Tucker (Prescott NF) read off the Prescott NF Engine SOP and the committee found it to be too specific. Fenn Wimberly (Lake Meredith NRA) became the chair of six-person sub-committee to head up a more general draft for the Regional Engine SOP.

After lunch, Todd Rhines presented an overview of the Interagency Wildfire Protection Equipment Conference held in Las Vegas, NV. Topics included:

- Fuel storage in the "crumple zones"
- Red lights and siren packages
- Chock blocks
- Standardized flagging
- Portable pumps: 4-cycle, more quiet by 2005
- Fire shelters
- Ember separators

Bill Waterbury (Regional Office) introduced himself to the committee and explained how he would help bring any of the policy issues and proposals to SWACG in a timely manor. The next SWACG meeting is to meet at the end of January. Questions were asked and discussed regarding contract engines and standards for the emergency equipment rental agreement. Bill finished with talks on standardized PD's and all risk preparedness with more crossover training.

The committee members broke into groups to elect Zone representatives.
They are as follows:

NAZ - c - Dave Bales

GCZ- c - Kim Brown

vc - Lee Payne

sec - Reesa Eckle

FLZ- c - Jeff Walther

vc - Pat Willetto

sec - Keith V. Halloran

CWZ - c - Paul Churchill

vc - Kc Yowell , Aaron Hulburd

sec - Jason Cress

WMZ - c - Steve Wallace

SEZ - c - Dennis Haygood

TAZ - No representative

SNZ - c - Dolores Garcia

ABZ - c - Todd Lerke

vc - Fenn Wimberly

sec - Jose Tenario

GLZ - c - Mary Greiner

LNZ - c - Mike Testa

vc - Jay Northcott

Todd had asked the Zones to meet by Feb. 1, 2003, to come up with topics or more input to continued discussions for the next Engine Operators Committee to be held On Feb. 12, 2003. Todd, Dave, Keith and one member from each of the Zones and Agency will meet at a location in Phoenix. From here on out, any issues need to be presented at Zone meetings and sent up the ladder for further discussion. Let's be sure to keep this alive!

Submitted by:

Keith V. Halloran

R3 Engine Ops. Committee recording secretary